

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41: (canceled)

42. (currently amended) An impact energy absorbing liner that is custom fitted to a particular wearer's head, the liner being custom made such that it has an inner surface substantially conforming to the shape of said wearer's head, said liner comprising semi-rigid viscoelastic foam and being effective to attenuate the force of impact resulting from an impact velocity anywhere in the range of 2-7 m/sec, and to dissipate a substantial portion of said impact force away from a localized region of impact.

43. (previously presented) An impact energy absorbing liner according to claim 42, said energy absorbing liner being a one-piece liner.

44. (previously presented) An impact energy absorbing liner according to claim 43, said one-piece liner being substantially uniformly and continuously fitted with said wearer's head along said inner surface thereof when said wearer is wearing ~~said~~ a helmet equipped with said liner.

45. (previously presented) An impact energy absorbing liner according to claim 42, said impact energy absorbing liner being made as one piece.

Claims 46-49: (canceled)

50. (previously presented) An impact energy absorbing liner according to claim 47, said foam exhibiting substantially 100% crush recovery following an impact.

Claims 51-55: (canceled)

56. (currently amended) A helmet comprising an impact energy absorbing liner made of semi-rigid viscoelastic foam, said energy absorbing liner being ~~custom-made~~ custom-fitted to a wearer's head and made by a method comprising positioning a shape-forming means over said

wearer's head, hardening said shape-forming means to provide a hardened headform that substantially conforms to the shape of said wearer's head, and using said hardened headform to mold, or to prepare a mold for, said liner, wherein the shape-forming means is selected from the group consisting of a heat-softenable plastic sheet and a stretchable beanie cap that is coated or impregnated with a curable polymeric material, according to the method of claim 1 such that said liner has an inner surface substantially conforming to the shape of said wearer's head.

Claims 57-63: (canceled)